

House Resolution 1967

By: Representative Amerson of the 9th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Chestatee Wildlife Preserve; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the mission of Chestatee Wildlife Preserve is to provide the Georgia community
3 with an educational resource that teaches children and adults about the importance of wildlife
4 preservation and to provide a safe and nurturing environment for native, exotic and endangered
5 animal species; and

6 WHEREAS, the founder of Chestatee Wildlife Preserve, C.W. Wathen, known affectionately
7 as C.W., moved to the beautiful North Georgia mountains and began accumulating his
8 collection with quarter horses and miniature horses, which led him to exotic species such as
9 llamas, zebras, and monkeys; and

10 WHEREAS, over the years his vision of a preserve began to come together into the wonderful
11 sanctuary that is today home to over 120 different species; and

12 WHEREAS, Chestatee Wildlife Preserve provides incredible education opportunities for
13 thousands of children from elementary schools, day cares, churches, and other groups teaching
14 them not only about the animals, their habits, diets and special needs but also the importance
15 of respecting the strengths of the individual animals as well as trust, love, respect, and
16 discipline; and

17 WHEREAS, high schools have also added the Preserve to their curriculum in earning work day
18 credits by having the older children come in for a day to assist in feeding, cleaning cages,
19 policing the property, building enclosures, and performing other duties; and

20 WHEREAS, the students come to appreciate the time and effort it takes to care for these
21 animals and develop a deep respect and admiration for what these animals mean to our
22 environment, and learn the importance of preserving their natural habitats; and

1 WHEREAS, children with special needs receive special attention and love at the Preserve and
2 are given opportunities to learn about the animals and interact with them as much as possible;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, the Preserve works with licensing agencies governing the purchase and keeping
5 of exotic animals to protect the animals as well as the public, and the Preserve supports these
6 agencies as well by teaching the importance of respecting the animals' environment and natural
7 instincts and does its part to preserve and teach the balance between man and nature; and

8 WHEREAS, the Preserve is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit corporation and depends mainly on
9 donations from private individuals and corporate sponsorships and on volunteers who are
10 carefully screened and undergo training prior to joining the staff; and

11 WHEREAS, the Preserve has taken great pride in its ability to provide many other zoos and
12 wildlife preserves with threatened and endangered species and recently was featured on Animal
13 Planet's "Little Zoo That Could," a production that features Gulf Coast Zoo in Alabama, which
14 was hit by several hurricanes and was given a black spotted leopard and a lion cub by the
15 Preserve; and

16 WHEREAS, the Chestatee Wildlife Preserve is a treasured asset for the schoolchildren and
17 citizens of Georgia, and it is only fitting this extraordinary organization be recognized by this
18 body.

19 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that the members
20 of this body commend the devotion, dedication and love provided to the animals of the
21 Chestatee Wildlife Preserve and thank everyone involved in carrying out the important work
22 of this organization.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized and
24 directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to C. W. Wathen.